

APPROVED

MINUTES

**McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
1st Floor Community Development Conference Room
April 14, 2005
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Art DeCabooter, Chair
Christine Kovach
Virginia Korte
Carla
Don Ruff
Denny Carr
Solange Whitehead

Absent: Arnold Roy
Laura Fisher
Erik Filsinger
Howard Myers

Staff: Bob Cafarella
Claire Miller
Cathy Eley

Visitors: Steve Goodman, Jennifer ?, Dan Gruber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 6, 2005

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Ruff TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2005 MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Carr, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0.

February 2, 2005

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Ruff TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2005 MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Carr, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0.

March 3, 2005

Commissioner Carla stated that page 3, paragraph 1, should read: "... availability to connect with Fountain Hills *through that valley* was inappropriate..."

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Ruff TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2005 MEETING AS AMENDED. MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Carr, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0.

PROPOSED APS SERVICE FACILITIES IN NORTHEAST VALLEY

Mr. Goodman, representative from APS reviewed with the Commission the three different options for the proposed expansion of the Pinnacle Peak Substation and new electrical facilities in the Northeast Valley. Mr. Goodman stated that APS has been meeting with City staff and has held open houses to solicit input and that 95% of the comments received were to build An existing right-of-way. Mr. Goodman noted that Option 2, which would go along Dynamite through Troon, would be very difficult, as the proposal to underground the lines would cost between 9 and 11 million dollars. Mr. Goodman commented Option 1 and 3 would require less money for undergrounding for lines outside of the Preserve, although funding has not yet been identified to pay the for undergrounding, APS feels that this can be accomplished.

Commissioner Whitehead asked if Option 1 would be the least impact.

Mr. Goodman stated that it was.

Commissioner Carla noted that Option #3 would require APS to be granted right of way in the Preserve, and that would be setting a precedent. Commissioner Carla commented that Option #1 did not require a new road going north to south, but that the east to west would have new maintenance spurs which would create ground disturbance.

Mr. Cafarella stated that APS would come into the area on a City access road.

Mr. Goodman stated that APS was committed to do everything they can to minimize the impact and that maintenance issues are seldom.

Commissioner Ruff asked what the advantage was of Option #3 to Option #1.

Mr. Goodman responded that there would be less overhead lines in Option #3, and more existing access in Option #1.

Commissioner Kovach asked if they had a feel for what the response would be from the residents to the east.

Mr. Goodman stated that they felt that they had addressed their issues.

Commissioner Carla commented that Rio Verde might still protest the proposal.

Commissioner Korte noted that Option #3 impacted Troon more than Option #1.

Mr. Goodman commented that they wanted it as far east as possible.

Commissioner Kovach asked what would happen if the additional money was not found for the undergrounding.

Mr. Goodman stated that APS is hopeful to work through that and that they are not considering the option of not undergrounding.

Commissioner Kovach asked if they had the easement for the proposed undergrounding.

Mr. Goodman stated that they did not.

Commissioner Carla commented that they should use the roadway easement, not in the Preserve.

Mr. Goodman stated that there were two open houses being held next week to present this to the residents.

Commissioner Whitehead asked if the expanded substation would be required to go before the Development Review Board.

Mr. Goodman stated that it would and then to City Council.

Chairman DeCabooter asked that this be carried forward to the next Commission meeting.

UPDATE: STATE LAND REFORM – MSLT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commissioner Carla stated that the group has been meeting on a citizen's initiative and that she would have an update at the May or June Commission meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cafarella reported that the Sunrise Trail is open and that the lower lot will be done soon. Mr. Cafarella noted that the usage has gone down since the weather has warmed up.

Mr. Cafarella stated that they are working on Lost Dog Wash and that the Capital Project staff has agreed to go to a contract at risk, which is an established timeline that if the contractor doesn't meet it, they have to pay a penalty.

Mr. Cafarella stated that they would like to have the design plan for the Gateway to the City Council prior to their summer break and Lost Dog Wash when they return from their break.

Commissioner Carr asked what the response was from the open house on the Lost Dog Wash.

Mr. Cafarella stated that it was very positive.

Commissioner Carr asked what the usage was at Sunrise Trail.

Mr. Cafarella stated that it did get to overflow and that the Police Department was aggressive in citing cars that were not parked in designated parking spaces.

Commissioner Kovach asked if the Desert Discovery Center and Gateway would share parking.

Mr. Cafarella responded that the parking was one of a list of items that the designer would be exploring.

Commissioner Kovach asked how the gates at Sunrise worked.

Mr. Cafarella stated that they were on a programmable time that was set for sunrise to sunset, noting that the gate would open when you pull up to it if you were parked on the inside before it closed. Mr.

Cafarella stated that new signage was going to be installed explaining the hours and the gate operation. Mr. Cafarella noted that the newly planted trees were already growing.

PRESERVE MANGER'S REPORT

Ms. Miller reported that the Windgate Pass Trail is done and the stewards would continue the revegetation. Ms. Miller stated that 128th Street would be ripped next week.

Ms. Miller stated that they had held an event at the Granite Mountain multi-use area at which the State Land Department sold recreation permits and that the event had been successful. Ms. Miller commented that she would be meeting the Police Department beat officers on the preserve area again. Ms. Miller noted that the EnviroKidsFest would be held at Westworld on Thursday, April 28th.

Ms. Miller noted that Rural/Metro would be at the next Commission meeting to discuss the fire danger in the Preserve and that they are working on public relations related to the fire danger.

Mr. Cafarella commented that the Fire Department and Police Department want to be a part of the stewards retreat. Mr. Cafarella stated that Rural/Metro feels that the fire season will start later this year and end earlier, but that they feel that next year may be a potential greater fire season.

Commissioner Carla stated that a resident in Legend Trails is very concerned about the fire danger and feels that Granite Mountain should be closed to all off road vehicles and that there may be some negative press about this.

FUTURE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Ruff TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MAY 12, 2005, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE. ARS 38-431.03 (A) (3) and (A) (7). MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Carr, which carried unanimously, 7-0.

COMMISSION & PUBLIC COMMENTS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Chairman DeCabooter stated that the State Land Department's conference on open space was upcoming and distributed information on it.

Mr. Cafarella stated that APS and Rural/Metro would be at the next meeting.

Commissioner Carla stated that the Planning Committee would have an update at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Submitted by:

Cathy Eley
Recording Secretary